

Quote of the Month:

"It is a plausible theory that the reverence which the ancient peoples of Europe paid to the oak, and the connexion which they traced between the tree and their sky-god, were derived from the much greater frequency with which the oak appears to be struck by lightning than any other tree of our European forests....They...loved the oak above all the trees of the wood."

James George Frazier

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:45 pm.
2. Members present: Bergschneider, Breed, Cherington, Collier, Fischer, Hodge, Kithil, Shook, Simmons, Yarnell.
3. I introduced Randy R. Shook, Director of Public Information of Provenant Health Partners. Randy emphasized that educational goals and missions were of importance to both the Provenant Foundation and the Lightning Data Center.

I distributed reprints of the following article: "Lightning injury and glioma" by Cherington, Yarnell, and Todd in the December 1994 issues of Injury.

I reported that our application for CME accreditation for our meetings has been submitted to the Medical Education Committee.

Finally, I read the memorandum from Melanie Fennema-Jonker, Manager of Dev. Support Systems regarding educational program funding. She will schedule a meeting with members of LDC and Ron Mirenda to pursue this project.

4. Phil Yarnell gave a slide presentation of two patients who suffered lightning strikes during 1994. Phil will be deliver a platform presentation on lightning injuries in Vail to a Neurosurgical Conference in Vail in March. He will discuss the patients struck by lighting in that mountain town.

Phil received an inquiry from an electrical engineer regarding the risks, if any, of working in the vicinity of an electrical motor (1800 amps; 600 volts). Rich Kithil suggested that he be referred to the National Fire Protection Association for additional information.

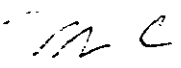
Phil furnished a newspaper account of a lawsuit in which parents brought a wrongful death suit against the power company because of the electrocution of their 16 year old son who climbed an tree and came in contact with transmisssion lines.

5. Rich Kithil told us of his Lightning Safety Lectures which he has given in association with the National Safety Council. He also reported that he has been involved in the installation of a lightning protection program in Ecuador.

Rich advanced an idea that evoked a fair amount of discussion from the group. He suggested we change our name to "Lightning Safety Center" and change the direction of the organization, adopt by-laws, and name a board of directors. Rich believes we can be more bold in our efforts to acquire funding for educational efforts. Dan Breed, Geoge Hodge, and I spoke about the benefits of retaining the "academic" character of the LDC. Rich and I suggested that we might consider a new group with a bolder educational mission that would be associated with LDC. The LDC would be the parent organization which would continue as it has. The group decided to consider these matters and continue the discussion next month. In the interim, Rich and Warren Simmons will develop a "game plan" regarding the these ideas.

6. Kevin Bergschneider reported on his travels to Europe. His company, Snowmatic, makes snow for recreational ski areas. His travels included some time in Lilliehammer, Norway. Kevin also told us that he has not yet obtained information from the Castle Pines Golf Course about how often their lightning protection system has been struck by lightning.
7. Rich Collier reported on his projects at the Nuclear Test Site in Nevada. He and EMA are involved in providing safety and lightning terminals at the facility. He spoke about air terminals on ventilator stacks at the underground facility.
8. George Hodge presented a list of the coroner's offices for Colorado. In the year 1994, there were lightning fatalities in the following counties: Eagle, Grand, Routt, Teller, Park, and Summit. George also reported on a case of lightning fraud that he has investigated for an insurance company.
9. Dan Breed provided the "treat" for the day with a videotape entitled "Electric Skies."
10. Our next meeting: Friday, February 10, 1995 at 11:30 am in Conference Room B at St. Anthony Hospital Central.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael Cherington, MD  
Chairman, LDC